

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

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Pursley
mtng at Pentagon
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Dr. Kissinger responded that since Mr. Laird's strategy had been sent to the President and had already been the subject of some delay, he felt it was necessary that the DPRC consider it as soon as possible.

Secretary Laird replied that the JCS had no problems with the current Defense draft and agreed that it could be briefed on Monday. He added, however, that he would like to have the DPRC come to the Defense Department for a working luncheon as soon as possible so that he could present the fiscal guidance. It was agreed that a DPRC meeting would be set up for Monday, March 1st at the White House to consider the 1973-1974 fiscal guidance. Secretary Laird asked Dr. Kissinger if the Defense draft should be provided to all the participants. Dr. Kissinger replied that this should not be done but rather should be given only to the NSC staff.

Secretary Laird then raised the issue of contingency plans held by the NSC staff. He stated that some of them were not very good and were out of date and that he was redoing them and would forward them to Dr. Kissinger. He cited especially Korea and the Middle East.

Mr. Laird assured Dr. Kissinger that during his visit to Latin America, Admiral Zumwalt would not get involved with substantive talks. He was accompanied by Mr. Seldon of the ISA staff.

Secretary Laird stated that the soviet nuclear submarines' presence in Cuba would soon leak and that some statement would have to be made. Dr. Kissinger stated that there would be a discussion of this issue at the WSAG to be held that day and requested that Secretary Laird hold off for 24 hours. Secretary Laird stated that the President's statement in January on the Cuban issue was troublesome and that the problem was not just nuclear submarines but rather offensive systems. He stated that Defense had prepared a paper on this subject. Dr. Kissinger suggested that Mr. Laird develop the paper further and confirmed that we would all have to stay together on this.

Secretary Laird reported that Defense was moving forward with a patrol for the Black and Baltic Seas but stated that he believed an even more effective response to the Soviet's Cuban move would be the basing of some U.S. F-111s in Turkey. Dr. Kissinger indicated that this would be an excellent signal and suggested that Defense proceed accordingly.

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